

REMARKS

Claims 1-84 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 51 and 68 being the independent claims. Claims 1-84 stand rejected.

Summary of Telephonic Interview

On April 30, 2007 the undersigned conducted an interview with the Examiner. During the interview, the undersigned and the Examiner generally discussed claim 1 and how the D'Andrea reference applies to claim 1 as recited. Specifically, the discussion centered around the claim limitation "a list of the other Items owned by the Item", and the Examiner's helpful comments have led the undersigned to submit the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-18, 33-59, 62-76, and 79-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by D'Andrea & Janus (1996) (D'Andrea hereafter).

Applicants submit that claim 1 as recited patentably defines over D'Andrea for at least the following reason. Applicants have reviewed the art of record and submit that D'Andrea fails to teach or suggest, for example, "a list of the other Items owned by the Item" as recited in claim 1. As described in the application, each Item contains a record or "list of what other Items (the "Target Items") are owned by the present Item (the "Owning Item")" (Application at paragraph [0330]). Generally speaking, ownership of an Item is identified by a relationship between the owner and the owned. (See, e.g., Application, paragraphs [0376], [0393], and [0448] through [0450]). An item that owns another item can affect the owned item in a variety of ways. For example, the relationship between a folder and an item can be owned by either the item or the folder. In this example, ownership affects how a query for the item is handled, i.e., if the item a document and it owns the relationship between it and a folder a query for the item will be treated differently than if the relationship is owned by the folder. (See, Application, paragraph [0452]). More specifically, "a Relationship that logically extends from an Item Folder to an Item denotes that the Item is public and sharable to that

Item Folder, whereas the lack of a logical Relationship from the Item Folder to the Item denotes that the Item is private and non-sharable.” (Application at paragraph [0451]).

Applicants submit that the concept of ownership is not taught or suggested by D’Andrea as the Examiner asserted in the Office Action dated March 13, 2007. In support of the rejection the Examiner stated that the last paragraph on page 71, and the second paragraph on page 72 of D’Andrea teach “a list of the other Items owned by the Item.”(Office Action dated March 13, 2007 at page 3). Applicants have reviewed the above mentioned portions of D’Andrea and submit that they only discusses features of an object-relational database management system, i.e., the tables of a database can be a class (See, e.g., D’Andrea at page 71, last paragraph), and the basic fundamentals of object oriented programming, i.e., inheritance, encapsulation, etc. (See, e.g., D’Andrea at page 72, second paragraph). Since D’Andrea fails to teach or suggest an item that includes a list of items owned by the item Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection to claim 1.

Insomuch as claims 2 – 50 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 they too patentably define over D’Andrea. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection to claim 2 – 50.

Independent claims 51 and 68 recite similar elements to claim 1 and patentably define over D’Andrea for at least the same reason with respect to claim 1. Dependent claims 52 – 67 and 69 – 84 depend directly or indirectly from claims 51 or 68 and patentably define over the cited. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection to claim 51 – 84.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

Early consideration and allowance of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested.

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/David M. Platz/
David M. Platz
Registration No. 60,013

Woodcock Washburn LLP
Cira Centre
2929 Arch Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2891
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439